

## **2013 Chatham Lake Aquatic Vegetation Control Plan**

### **LDWF, Inland Fisheries**

#### Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation Problems:

A survey of the aquatic vegetation on Chatham Lake was performed on 1-23-13. At the time of the survey a fringe of common salvinia approximately 2-3 feet wide was surrounding the majority of the shoreline on the lake. This would cover a 3-5 acre area approximately.

Chatham Lake had undergone a complete drawdown for renovation purposes in 2007 which was preceded by a partial dewatering of the lake in 2004 for habitat improvement. It is apparent that drawdowns will only provide short term control of the submerged aquatic vegetation in the shallow areas of the lake. Approximately 50% of Chatham Lake has water depths less than 4 feet deep. This area is usually covered annually by submerged aquatic vegetation, but at the last visit in Jan 2013, it was non existent.

#### Aquatic Vegetation Status 2013:

Currently Chatham Lake has less than 10% coverage of nuisance aquatic vegetation. The alligator weed treatments have been extremely successful.

Common salvinia is the main component of aquatic vegetation on Chatham. As of January 2013, there were 5 acres of plants on the lake in a fringe around the perimeter. Some coontail and southern naiad is present, but very little compared to previous years.

#### Proposed Control Measures for 2013:

Foliar herbicide applications should be made by LDWF spray crews to control the emergent aquatic vegetation where it is problematic. Clearcast or Imazapyr will be applied at 0.5 gallons per acre with Inergy surfactant (0.25 gallons per acre) for alligator weed control.

Current recommendations are to monitor and continue treatments as carried out in 2012. A near future treatment for common salvinia will occur as spray personnel and schedule permits. Diquat at 0.75 gal per acre along with 1 qt per acre of surfactant (one part Thoroughbred, 3 parts Aqua king) will be used if this application is made before April 1. After that time, a mix of glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) and diquat (0.25 gal/acre) with Aqua King Plus (0.25 gal/acre) and Thoroughbred (8 oz/acre) surfactants will be used.

Chatham Lake is 158 acres and historically has approximately 40% submerged plant coverage. A triploid grass carp stocking was to be recommended on Chatham Lake at a 5 fish per vegetated acre rate in the fall/winter 2012-2013. However, current submerged plant estimates do not warrant grass carp stocking. We should reassess the submerged coverage in the spring/summer of 2013 and if needed stock triploid grass carp at 5 fish per vegetated acre, the total would be 300

fish. The grass carp should be greater than 12 inch fingerlings to reduce predation and minimize stocking mortality.

An assessment of triploid grass carp effectiveness should be made three years post stocking and additional grass carp added if necessary. The grass carp stocking recommendations were discussed with the Jackson Parish Watershed Commission in January 2012. As of February 1, 2013, no carp have been stocked on Chatham Lake.